

**Maine Clean Government Initiative
Biennial Plan**

**Submitted to:
Department of Environmental Protection**

**Submitted by:
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

May 31, 2002

1.0 Introduction

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is responsible for overseeing the food system within the State. The Agency maintains a mission of fostering opportunities for the agriculture community while promoting the stewardship of Maine's natural resources. The Department is comprised of 5 bureaus and maintains a staff of approximately 170 employees. The majority of the workforce is field staff with responsibility for travelling throughout the State to conduct inspections and testing services.



In-state facilities operated by the Department of Agriculture include leased office space, the Weights Measures and Food Storage Facility on the Cony Road in Augusta and the Porter Farm in Marsadis. Out of state facilities include a building at the Big E Agricultural Center in Springfield, Massachusetts and a farm in Dade County Florida.

The Commissioner appointed Personnel Officer Amanda Dority to assume responsibility for ensuring the effective development and implementation of agency activities under the Maine Clean Government Initiative.

2.0 Issues Identification

In anticipation of the preparation of this Biennial Plan, the Human Resources Director identified environmental aspects associated with the Department's activities after consultation with Division Directors. Environmental aspects were further evaluated and defined in a meeting held between Ms. Dority and Ms. Jane Carpenito of Rizzo Associates, a Maine Clean Government Initiative Consultant.

3.0 Objectives and Targets Selection Process

Upon reviewing the list of Department environmental aspects and impacts, we concluded that automobile emissions appeared to be the primary environmental impact generated by the agency's activities. Because agency business requires the majority of staff to travel to conduct testing and inspection activities, reducing the number of automobile trips was not deemed a practical objective. However, opportunities to modify the types of vehicles used by the Department were selected as a Clean Government objective as described in the following table.

In addition, to energy efficiency, the Department has also set targets for completion of regulatory audits and development of an Environmental Management System.



| Objective | Target | Method of Measure | Performance Indicator | Action Plan | Responsible Personnel | Target Date | Status and Notes |
|--|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|--|------------------|
| Fuel Efficiency | Replace Passenger vehicles with ultra low emission vehicles (ULEV) vehicles upon lease termination | Miles per gallon | Annual miles per gallon for passenger vehicles in fleet | Request conversion of vehicles from Central Fleet Services. | Amanda Dority | As leases are due to expire | |
| Fuel Efficiency | Replace light duty vehicles with low emission vehicles (LEV). | Miles per gallon | Annual miles per gallon for light duty vehicles | Request conversion of vehicles from Central Fleet Services. | Amanda Dority | As leases are due to expire | |
| Regulatory Compliance | Complete environmental compliance audits of the Cony and Porter Farm Facilities | Compliance Audit Report | Compliance Audit Report and evidence of implementation of corrective actions/ plan, as applicable. | 1. Convene audit team 2. Schedule and conduct audits | Amanda Dority David Gagnon Terry Bourgoin | June 03 | |
| Environmental Management System Implementation | Prepare and communicate EMS to Department | Management Review | EMS implementation is reviewed as part of the annual review of Department Policies. | 1. Prepare draft EMS policy for review by the Commissioner and Division Directors 2. Incorporate recommended changes and issue policy to employees 3. Train staff on EMS requirements | 1. Amanda Dority, Commissioner and Division Directors 2. Amanda Dority, Commissioner 3. Division Directors | 1. September 02 2. October 02 3. November 02 | |

4.0 Successes to Date

Stewardship of Maine's natural resources is at the heart of the Department's mission. As such, the Department maintains a lengthy list of environmental accomplishments. Recent notable contributions to environmental protection include:



Obsolete Pesticide Collection Program

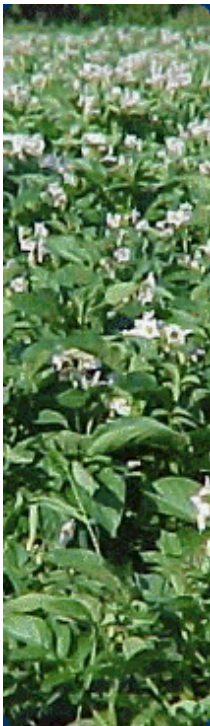
In partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Board of Pesticides Control coordinates an annual Obsolete Pesticide Collection Program for Maine homeowners, non-corporate farmers and greenhouse operators. Citizens bring obsolete pesticide products to rendezvous collection points set up throughout the state where materials are prepared for shipment to licensed hazardous waste facilities. Over the 6 years of operation, 40,516 pounds of obsolete pesticides have been collected and properly disposed of through this Department effort.

Composting Program

The Department encourages the use of composting as an environmentally sound approach to managing organic wastes and of returning nutrients and organic matter to the soil. In partnership with the internationally recognized Maine Compost School Department staff, the Maine Compost team has developed safe and acceptable approaches to composting large animal carcasses and the offal generated by slaughterhouses.

Nutrient Management Program

The Department maintains responsibility for the implementation of the Statewide Nutrient Management Program. The Department's goal in implementing the program is to provide education opportunities and best management practices to the agricultural community to reduce nutrient loads on waterbodies.



5.0 Obstacles to Plan Implementation.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources embraces the goals of the Clean Government Initiative and expects that it can complete the goals set forth in this plan within the target dates identified.